

April 29, 1971

Dr. Larry Okun
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Dear Larry,

Thank you for your letter of April 15th. We had a troublesome hassle, including a partial strike of black workers at the hospital that took all of my time during the last two weeks; but I think we may have just a lull but an opening to some more peaceful times now.

I am glad to know that you will be settling down and I was also particularly interested to read your scientific report. I wish I could comment more intelligently about it but I think you would be way ahead of me on any comments I could make at this point. I hope we will really be seeing more of one another and we can go into these and many other things at more congenial close distance.

Your letter to Harbury at Santa Barbara was excellent.

I thought I had put in more than my share of comment about funding for health research in general and cautions about a separate cancer agency in particular. I am pretty optimistic that some reasonably satisfactory compromises are going to be worked out. It really is not so awful if Spiegelman does get \$2 million if the overall effort is large enough that some real talent (like yours) has a chance to be expressed. Besides, as things work out in the real world the dollars that are labeled "Spiegelman" will themselves filter to a considerable degree to other people in an organization that know how to make good use of it. I can understand your concerns about being isolated; however, the fact that Utah has two Senators will still be quite meaningful in terms of eliciting support from Washington. You might have done even better by going to Wyoming!

All the best to you.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

OKUN, L.